

# *Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting*

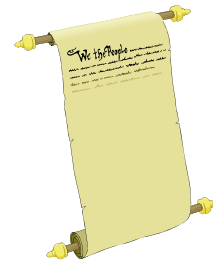
**Minutes: June 12, 2013**

Veterans Affairs Committee meeting called to order by Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Arnold Arquette at 2:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance–Moment of Silence.

Roll-call of committee members:

Chair,	Arnold Arquette,	Present
Co-Chair,	Dave Martin,	Present
	Philip Savage,	Present By Way of Teleconference
	Rodger Seidel,	Present
	Samuel Gray,	Present



## **Citizens' Time:**

Mr. Dave Morgan, Desert Storm Veteran and Chairman of the Calhoun County Democrat Party, was present to observe and familiarize himself with the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs office and Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee.

## **Reading of the May 2013 Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes:**

Following review, Mr. Dave Martin made a motion to accept the May 12, 2013 Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes as presented, Mr. Rodger Seidel seconded the motion. By a roll call vote of 5-0, the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

## **Applications for Emergency Assistance from the Calhoun County Veterans' Relief Fund:**

None

### **Reading of Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Burial Reports:**

Five (5) Burial Applications were processed in the month of April. By a roll call vote of 5-0, the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee authorized the Director to sign and submit all five of the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Burial–Headstone Reimbursement applications that satisfy the eligibility requirements in concert with the State of Michigan statutory requirements.

### **Old Business:**

Mr. Brian Parker, representative for Custer Workplace Interiors, provided a quote and blue prints for the mobile track filing system that the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee had requested. Mr. Parker stated that he was able to work with the Mayline Company and came up with a revision to the mobile track filing system that the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee had initially investigated. Mr. Parker stated that while the quote and blue print were for a reduced system than was originally investigated, the system could always be added to; provided approximately 2,000 linear filing inches as opposed to the current filing system which provided approximately 1,450 filing inches. The revised mobile system not only would increase the filing capacity by approximately 50 percent; it would also provide a safer, more efficient work flow. Most importantly the revised track filing system came in at a cost below the allotted \$10,000 of the Capital Improvement Plan approved by Calhoun County Assistant Administrator Brad Wilcox. Mr. Parker delineated that upon received approval and purchase orders, the system would take approximately six (6) weeks before being installed. Mr. Dave Martin made a motion to present the revised quote to Assistant Administrator Brad Wilcox for approval. Colonel Rodger Seidel seconded the motion. By a roll call vote of 5-0, the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee authorized the Director to submit the quote and request for the revised mobile track filing system to Assistant Administrator Brad Wilcox for approval.

As significant discussions have arose relative to the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee authoring a letter to address not only confused circumstances that encompassed the 2013 Budget, but also, the statutory purview and authority that rests within the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee, Mr. Dave Martin recommended that Colonel Rodger Seidel take a leadership role on behalf of the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee in matters dealing with Calhoun County Administration and the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Phil Savage agreed with Mr. Martin that it would be in the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee's best interest to have Colonel Seidel act as the spokesman for the members of the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee and the Calhoun County Veterans for whom the Committee members passionately advocate on behalf of. Mr. Arquette and Mr. Gray both agreed with Colonel Seidel advocating and taking lead on discussions with Calhoun County Board of Commissioners and Calhoun County Administration.

Once again, the primary topic of discussion related to the 2013 Calhoun County Veterans Affairs budget and the authority and statutory purview relative to budgetary reductions and who possesses the jurisdictional oversight of the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Relief Fund Surplus. Currently the State of Michigan mandated, yet unfunded Calhoun County Burial–Headstone Reimbursement benefit are being supplemented by the Calhoun County Veteran’s Relief Fund surplus. Mr. Dave Morgan inquired as to why the Calhoun County Burial–Headstone Reimbursement benefits were not being funded by the Veteran’s Special Millage Fund that was passed by the Calhoun County voters in November 2012. Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Director Scott C. Losey, explained to Mr. Morgan, that the Veteran’s Special Millage monies will not be available until the 2014 budget. Director Losey reminded the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee that the 2013 Calhoun County Veterans Affairs was prepared and submitted under the guise that the Veteran’s Special Millage monies would not be available until after all of the 2013 fall/winter taxes were collected. As of 2014, the revenue from the Veteran’s Special Millage will fund the State of Michigan mandated, yet unfunded Calhoun County Burial–Headstone Reimbursement benefit. Director Losey briefly explained to Mr. Dave Morgan the elements and importance of the Calhoun County Burial–Headstone Reimbursement is that it is a significant element of outreach for the Veteran community and their eligible family members. Director Scott C. Losey stated that the program essentially draws people in so that Calhoun County Veterans Affairs staff may determine if eligibility is established that may make surviving spouses and/or qualified family members eligible for additional federal benefits.

**New Business:**

None

**Good Of The Committee:**

None

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Martin made a motion to adjourn the Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee meeting at or about 3:15PM. Mr. Arnold Arquette seconded the motion. By a roll call vote of 5-0, the June 12, 2013 Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee meeting was adjourned.

---

Arnold Arquette  
Chairman, Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs Committee

---

Scott C. Losey  
Director, Calhoun County Veterans' Affairs